

WIC – Building Healthy & Strong Families

July 2, 2012

Dear Health Care Provider:

The intent of this letter is to inform you of the **Montana WIC Program infant formula changes effective October 1, 2012**. The Montana WIC Program continues to advocate breastfeeding as the normal infant feeding method; a practice that has irrefutable benefits nutritionally and developmentally. However, for those infants not breastfed or those who need to supplement breast milk, WIC will provide specific contract brand infant formula. Please support the WIC Program by using one of the standard infant formulas WIC provides for a formula fed infant in the hospital.

Effective October 1, 2012:

- **WIC standard infant formulas will be a combination between Abbott Laboratories and Mead Johnson products.**
 - **WIC will provide the following formulas from Abbott Laboratories as the contract milk-based formulas:**
 - **Similac Advance**
 - **Similac Sensitive**
 - **Similac for Spit-Up**
 - **WIC will provide the following formula from Mead Johnson as the contract soy-based formula:**
 - **Enfamil Prosobee**

This is a change from our previous contract of only Abbott Nutrition (Similac) products, specifically the contract soy-based formula changing from Similac Soy Isomil to Enfamil Prosobee.

To assist with the transition, WIC will begin offering these formulas to infants born in mid-July, August, and September. Local WIC agencies will distribute revised Medical Formula Request Forms. This form will also be available on the Montana WIC Website.

Infants and children with medical needs can still receive exempt WIC formulas designed for special conditions such as prematurity or food allergies. A prescription from a physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner is required before an exempt formula may be issued by WIC. The prescription must include the diagnosis that indicates an exempt formula and time frame that the formula is requested to be issued. **Please do not write prescriptions for non-WIC-contract formulas unless they are medically necessary.** By federal regulations, these prescriptions may not be honored unless the participant has tried the contract formulas and has a specific medical indication for the non-WIC-contract formula.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Montana WIC Program and your continued promotion and support of breastfeeding as well as the use of standard WIC contract formulas for WIC-eligible infants. With your support WIC will be able to provide adequate nutrition to more women, infants, and children in Montana through nutrition education, health screenings, referrals, and supplemental foods.

For more information, please contact your local WIC Program or the State WIC Office at 1-800-433-4298. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Joan Bowsher
Montana WIC Director